



Preparing All Indiana Students for the 21st Century

Indiana's P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement

We need your help. Be part of the solution.

The Stakes Are High, the Time Is Now

Imagine.

All Indiana students pursue education beyond high school...and complete a two- or four-year college degree, an apprenticeship, or military training. That way, they will have the solid foundation they need to continue learning throughout their lives...to provide for their families...and contribute to their communities.

Sound like a pipedream? Hardly. It's a necessity if Indiana intends to prosper in the 21st century. In the past decade, we have come closer to reaching this ambitious goal, but we still have a long way to go.

There was a time when students could leave high school with basic skills and still find a good job that paid enough to support a middle-class family. Those days are gone. Today, all students need more education after high school if they want a well-paying career in a high-growth field.

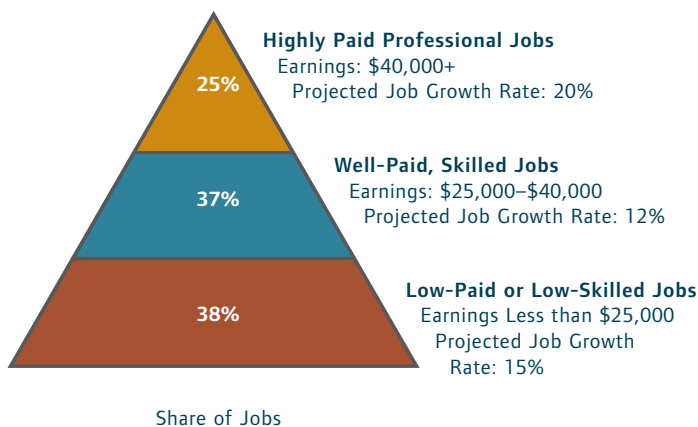
We cannot wait until students become teenagers to ensure they're on track. That's too late. Our youth need help right from the start.

DID YOU KNOW?

For every \$1 invested in high-quality early care and education, society saves \$7.16 in welfare, special education and criminal justice costs.

Source: National Institute for Early Childhood Education, 2003.

More Good Jobs Ahead — for Those with Enough Education



Source: American Diploma Project, 2002.

For instance, research shows that how the brain develops during the first years of life has a clear and compelling impact on later intellectual growth, such as learning to read. If students can't read well by third grade, they're much more likely to struggle in the later years. Middle school students who take algebra by 8th grade are more likely to be admitted to college and earn their degree. High school students who take rigorous courses have much better odds of completing their college studies and succeeding in the workforce.

To ensure that all Indiana students have these opportunities and support to learn, Indiana's Education Roundtable has adopted a comprehensive **P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement.**

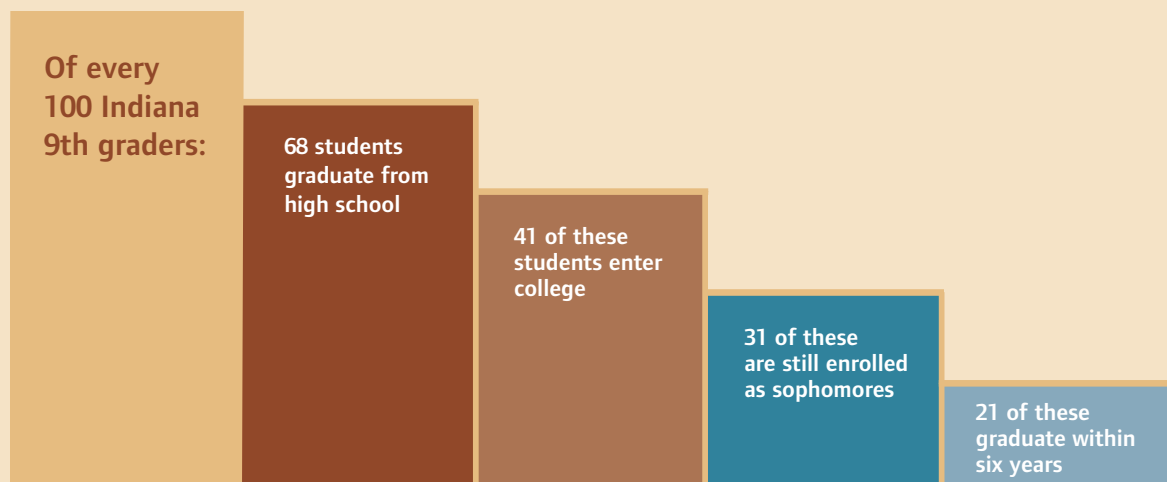
We Are Doing Better...

The good news is that we are not starting from scratch. Indiana has made great progress over the past decade in strengthening our educational system at all levels. Indiana's K–12 academic standards and accountability systems are considered to be among the very best in the country. We now rank 17th in the percentage of students going to college; we used to rank 40th. More than six in ten high school students now complete the Core 40 courses that prepare them for college or work; that's up from less than three in ten in 1997–98.

Elementary, middle and high school students have made solid gains on tests such as ISTEP+, SAT and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which measures Indiana against other states. The percentage of 8th graders who have taken Algebra I has more than doubled in the past decade. We have record college attendance of 324,000 students. Ninety-five percent of Indiana's schools and classrooms are now connected to the Internet.

Through the Education Roundtable, Indiana's leaders have shown they can reach agreement on difficult issues affecting all students. The state's schools have more funding, resources and tools, including stronger professional development for teachers. College is more accessible and affordable for Indiana students through several initiatives — such as the 21st Century Scholars, 529 savings plans and College Goal Sunday.

...But There's a Long Way To Go



Source: National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, April 2004.

Strengthening Education from Birth Through College (P-16)

The Education Roundtable adopted the P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement after 13 months of research, listening to Indiana citizens and discussion. In all, Roundtable leaders have outlined more than 70 recommendations that cover the early learning and preschool years, elementary school, middle school, high school, and higher education.

Among the recommendations:

- ♦ **Expanding preschool opportunities and strengthening quality.**
- ♦ **Offering the option of all-day kindergarten to every student.**
- ♦ **Requiring all high school students to complete Core 40.**
- ♦ **Connecting performance in high school to college admissions and course placements.**
- ♦ **Strengthening mentoring and dropout-prevention programs.**
- ♦ **Raising the high school dropout age to 18.**
- ♦ **Holding colleges more accountable for the success of their students.**
- ♦ **Improving the preparation and ongoing development of teachers and administrators.**
- ♦ **Ensuring all government agencies that provide services to students and families work more closely with each other — from the Department of Health to the Family and Social Services Administration to the Department of Education.**

Today, Roundtable members and many others are working to see that this vision becomes reality in every Indiana community. Policies and practices are being changed — from schoolrooms to college campuses to office buildings to manufacturing plants to government agencies. Students, parents, educators, employers and elected officials are facing up to the new realities of the 21st century — and trying to make sure that all Indiana students have the academic foundation to earn a living in the new economy.

A copy of the *P-16 Plan for Improving Student Achievement*, including a complete list of recommendations, is available at www.edroundtable.state.in.us.

DID YOU KNOW?

If only 10,000 more students a year earned college degrees, \$250 million would be added to Indiana's economy.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002.

Indiana's Education Roundtable is a bipartisan coalition of leaders from K-12 and higher education; business, industry and labor; parents and communities; and the Indiana General Assembly. The Roundtable is chaired by Governor Joe Kernan and Dr. Suellen Reed, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Replacing a Disjointed System...



...with an Integrated Approach

At All Levels (P–16)

- ◆ Align standards, assessments, accountability and data systems from early childhood through college.
- ◆ Recruit, train and retain high-quality teachers and education leaders.
- ◆ Close achievement gaps among student groups (ethnicity, income, disability, etc.).
- ◆ Involve families as partners.



Support parents in their role as first and most important teachers.

Provide health screenings and developmental checkups from birth to age seven.

Focus on reading.

Ensure all children have access to high-quality pre-K programs to prepare them for success in school.

Provide high-quality kindergarten for all children.

Focus on reading — promote family and community literacy.

Establish love of learning and a sense of responsibility.

Prepare all students for challenging high school courses.

Ensure all schools have comprehensive guidance programs that support high academic achievement.

Strengthen mentoring and dropout-prevention programs.

Require all students to complete Core 40.

Align curriculum, instruction and tests with college and workforce expectations.

Give all students access to Advanced Placement and dual-enrollment programs.

Increase college access and affordability for all students.

Implement a college accountability system and annual report card.

Make teacher preparation a top priority.

Increase number of students who earn degrees.

Everybody Wins

Putting the P–16 Plan into place will not be easy. We face tough choices on issues that range from funding to increased accountability for results — but the long-term benefits are more than worth it.

	Will need to...	...and we will get
Policymakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Recognize new realities require new strategic investments.◆ Focus funding on programs that best serve kids.◆ Insist on results.	A well-educated workforce that will keep our economy prosperous...and our families and communities strong.
Early education providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Keep children and families from “falling through the cracks” — especially in the transition to kindergarten.◆ Insist on high quality.	Students who enter school on track and ready...able to read well by third grade...and well prepared to keep learning for the rest of their lives.
K–12 educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Assume that all students will graduate and keep learning after high school...and teach that way.◆ Don’t accept the myth that some kids are not “college material.”◆ Hold yourselves, your students and their families accountable for results.	Students at every age who can perform at grade level...are motivated to work hard...and aspire to college.
Postsecondary educators	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Insist students have the preparation they need to succeed: Core 40.◆ Make sure that all college students earn a degree; getting in is just the first step.◆ Beef up K–12 teacher-prep programs to be more rigorous and relevant to what schools need now.◆ Hold yourselves, your students and their families accountable for results.	Students who are better prepared for college work and are more likely to earn degrees.

	Will need to...	...and we will get
Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Take more challenging courses. ◆ Continue your education through college, apprenticeships or military training. ◆ Take charge of your lives. 	A chance to earn a living to support a family...and to make a difference in your community.
Parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Expect more. Realize that what was good enough academically for you will not be good enough for your children. ◆ Be an advocate. Make sure your children know that school is important...and be involved to make sure schools provide quality learning. 	A chance to see your children succeed in an increasingly complex world and competitive economy.
Business leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Support public investments in programs that work. ◆ Walk the talk: Offer child care to employees; provide internships to high school students and teachers; provide time off for mentoring and parent involvement; look at transcripts when hiring grads; and cover tuition for employees who want to go back to school. 	Competent, highly skilled workers and managers, plus consumers contributing to a healthier economy.
Community and civic groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Be part of the chorus of adults pushing all students to pursue education after high school. ◆ Make sure your programs support improved academic performance for the children you serve. ◆ Urge policymakers to invest in student support programs that work. ◆ Be accountable for results. 	Graduates who have what it takes to contribute to stronger neighborhoods and communities...and a healthier economy.

Moving Forward

During the coming months, members of the Education Roundtable will be developing details for prioritizing and implementing the P-16 Plan. In making its recommendations, the Education Roundtable is fully aware of the financial constraints facing the state and its citizens. Lack of

money, however, should not excuse us from strategic planning. Indeed, the current economic situation makes it even more important to set priorities and target investments to where they will have the greatest impact.

Education Roundtable members will be reaching out to all areas of the state, explaining the need for these major changes and encouraging all sectors to get involved in their local communities.

We know what needs to be done. The challenge is to take action, community by community, that will turn this vision into tangible improvements for the children and young people across the state who are counting on our leadership.

DID YOU KNOW?

Students who don't complete college are likely to make \$1 million less over their careers than college grads.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002.

We need your help. Be part of the solution.

- ◆ Spread the word about the P-16 vision and why action is so urgent.
- ◆ Take steps in your organization to turn this vision into action.
- ◆ Add your voice to the debate (www.edroundtable.state.in.us).
- ◆ Stay up to date on the movement. Subscribe to the P-16 e-newsletter (www.edroundtable.state.in.us).